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Arizona Department of Education  
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal

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## **Arizona Department of Education Announces the Results of 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress Reading and Mathematics Tests**

### ***Arizona Fourth Grade Students Show Greatest Gains in Mathematics in the Nation***

**Phoenix, AZ, November 1, 2011**– Today, Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal announced Arizona's results on the 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Reading and Mathematics assessments. The 2011 results show that Arizona Grade 4 and Grade 8 students continue to show an upward trend in NAEP scores for Mathematics and Reading – with fourth grade students showing the greatest growth in the nation (up 5 scale score points) on NAEP Mathematics since 2009.

"I want to applaud our students, teachers, and school districts for their outstanding efforts," said Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal. "We remain committed to providing the assistance and resources necessary to our teachers and administrators to ensure that all students are college and career ready by the time they graduate high school."

"Arizona raised its mathematics standards in 2008 and this just goes to show that we are on the right track," continued Huppenthal. "Higher standards plus higher expectations leads to higher academic results."

Highlights from the 2011 NAEP examinations include:

#### **Mathematics**

- AZ Grade 4 students showed greater growth (i.e., 5 scale score points) since 2009 than their peers in any other state – AZ students had a scored significantly higher in 2011 (235) than in 2009 (230)
- AZ Hispanic students showed a 7 point increase (227) in NAEP mathematics scores from 2009 (220)
- AZ Grade 4 students showed an increase in percentage of students who are "At or Above Basic" (77%) and "At or Above Proficient" (34%) since 2009 (71% and 28%, respectively)
- AZ Grade 8 students scored significantly higher in 2011 (279) than in 2007 (276) and continue to show a steady upward trend since 2000
- AZ Grade 8 students showed an increase in percentage of students who are "At or Above Proficient" (31%) and "At or Above Advanced" (7%) since 2009 (26% and 5%, respectively)

#### **Reading**

- AZ Grade 4 students scored higher in 2011 (212) than in 2005 (207)
- AZ Grade 4 students showed an increase in percentage of students who are "At or Above Basic" (58%) since 2005 (52%).

- AZ Grade 8 students scored significantly higher in 2011 (260) than in 2007 (255).
- Hispanic (251) showed a significant increase in NAEP Reading scores since 2007 (241).
- AZ Grade 8 students showed an increase in percentage of students who are “At or Above Basic” (71%) since 2005 (65%).

“I am encouraged by the academic growth of our fourth grade students in mathematics, especially our Hispanic students,” said Superintendent Huppenthal. “While we have seen slow but steady progress since the passage of No Child Left Behind, we know we need to do more. We need to find where schools are doing an excellent job of educating students and look to replicate their successes in order to create rapid academic growth for all of Arizona’s students.”

For more information about the 2011 NAEP reading and mathematics performance, visit:

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.

*NAEP is a congressionally-mandated project overseen by the National Center for Education Statistics to continuously monitor the achievement of the nation's children and youth. NAEP has measured and reported on the knowledge and abilities of America's fourth, eighth and 12th grade students, providing data about students' performance in a variety of subject areas at national, regional and state levels.*

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